

Message

From: This Week @ EPA [epanews@epa.gov]
Sent: 2/19/2019 9:26:02 PM
To: This Week @ EPA [epanews@epa.gov]
Subject: Fixed ELMS Update Link - This Week @ EPA - February 19, 2019



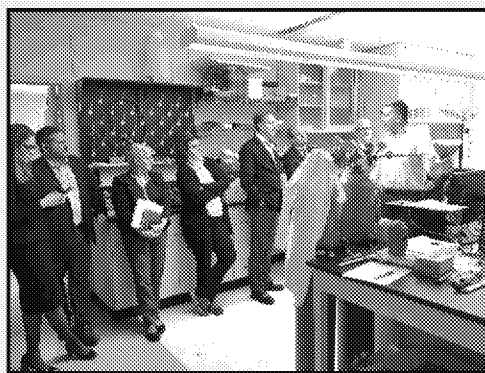
European Union delegation visits EPA

A European Union delegation toured EPA's Research Triangle Park facility on Thursday and learned about EPA's research in a number of areas including chemical testing, PFAS, decontamination, lead and arsenic at Superfund sites, microplastics, as well as next generation air quality. A full set of pictures from the visit.

Pictured on the right, starting from the bottom right and going clockwise: Jennifer Orme-Zavaleta (EPA Principal Deputy Assistant Administrator for Chief of Operations), Daniel Calleja Crespo (Director General, DC-DG Environment), Tim Watkins (EPA Director of National Exposure Research Laboratory, Director of the Office of Regional and Bilateral Affairs), Keatutis Sadauskas (Director, Circular Economy and Green Growth, EC-DG Environment), Assistant Administrator for Research and Development), Giuliani Torta (Counsellor, EU Delegation to the US), and BJ Collins (EPA Acting Director for Policy and Resources Management-RTP).



Pictured to the left, from left to right: Britney Bolen (EPA Associate Administrator for Office of Policy), Henry Darwin (EPA Chief of Operations), J. Michael McCarthy (EPA Principal Deputy Assistant Administrator for Science), Giuliani Torta (Counsellor, EU Delegation to the US), Keatutis Sadauskas (Director, Circulation and Air Quality, DG Environment), Daniel Calleja Crespo (Director General, DC-DG Environment), Mark Kasman (EPA Director of the Office of Regional and Bilateral Affairs, Office of Research and Development). Please note that no active experiments were happening in the lab, so safety goggles were not required.



Hot Topics

EPA announces first comprehensive nationwide PFAS Action Plan

Acting Administrator Andrew Wheeler announced EPA's historic Per- and Polyfluoroalkyl Substances (PFAS) Action Plan at an event on Thursday. This plan was developed thanks to the work of EPA employees over the past year. EPA put on a two-day National Leadership Conference, conducted a series of visits to communities around the country directly impacted by PFAS, and reviewed the 120,000 comments submitted.

"The PFAS Action Plan is the most comprehensive cross-agency plan to address an emerging chemical of concern ever undertaken by the EPA," said Administrator Wheeler. "For the first time in Agency history, we utilized all of our program offices to construct an all-encompassing plan that will help communities address PFAS and protect our nation's drinking water. We are moving forward with several important actions, including a community-level process, that will help affected communities better monitor, detect, and address PFAS."

EPA's Action Plan identifies both short-term solutions for addressing these chemicals and long-term strategies that will help provide clean and safe drinking water to states, tribes, and local communities need to provide clean and safe drinking water to their residents and to address PFAS at the source.

Thanks to all EPA staff who have and will continue to work on addressing PFAS in the nation's drinking water. To learn more about the plan, visit [epa.gov/pfas](#) or read the [press release](#).

EPA to host a celebration in honor of Martin Luther King Jr. Day

Please take note, this celebration was postponed from January due to the government shutdown.

On February 27 at 3:30 p.m. EST in the headquarters Green Room, EPA will host a celebration in honor of Martin Luther King Jr.

The keynote speaker is Ms. Willie King. Ms. King (no blood relation) was MLK's secretary during the Civil Rights Movement. Ms. King was on MLK's side to advocate for the fair and equal treatment of all people. She was also tasked with typing up MLK's handwritten notes for his famous letter written while he was confined in a Birmingham jail.

The MC is Office of Civil Rights Director, Vicki Simons.

EPAtv information: Live streaming will be available via [EPAtv](#). A recording of this event will be available February 28 via the [EPA website](#). Remember that EPAtv is only available through Internet Explorer while on the EPA network and cannot be accessed remotely.

Sign Language Interpreters will be present at the event. People needing reasonable accommodations should contact Kristin Tropp at tropp.kristin@epa.gov.

If you have any questions, please contact Tania Allen at: allen.tania@epa.gov, or at 202-564-0290.

Please mark your calendars and plan to attend. 

AAAS, ASPPH Fellowship Year begins fall 2019

Bring fresh ideas and unique expertise to your EPA team by supporting Fellows from the [American Association for the Advancement of Science \(AAAS\)](#) and the [Association of Schools and Programs of Public Health \(ASPPH\)](#). EPA's partnerships with the AAAS and ASPPH fellowship programs provide professionals with real-world opportunities to apply their knowledge while learning first-hand about policymaking and implementation.

AAAS Science & Technology Policy Fellows (placed in headquarters only) range from early career to experienced scientists, engineers, and policy analysts who hold doctoral degrees. ASPPH Environmental Health Fellows (can be placed in any EPA program and regional office) are recent graduates from schools and programs accredited by the Council on Education for Public Health. Interested EPA host offices agree to host the fellow for one year with the possibility of renewing for a second year. EPA placement descriptions are due by **March 7**. For more information, please contact Jayne Michaud at: michaud.jayne@epa.gov.

Join the 2019 Step It Up Challenge

Are you resolved to exercise more in 2019? Keep your fitness goals on track and enjoy the benefits of an active lifestyle by participating in the Step It Up Challenge.

From March 1 to May 31, participants will log their steps and exercise in a mobile-friendly online form, earning points to help their agency compete with similarly-sized EPA locations agencywide.

This year's challenge includes a few new features:

- The challenge will be cumulative, with winners announced at the end of the three-month agencywide competition period.
- The revamped [online form](#) is mobile-friendly. Bookmark the sign-in page on your smartphone to log data and earn points on the go.
- Participants within a location can now form small challenge groups (i.e., between two and five people) to engage in friendly competition.

To join the challenge, sign up on the [Challenges page](#), and check out success stories and tips from 2018 Step It Up Challenge participants on the [Challenges](#) and [Past Results](#) page.

For more information, visit the [Challenges page](#) on the EPA intranet.

EPA wins 2018 Feds Feed Families award

Congratulations to EPA for winning the Feds Feed Families (FFF) small agency category award for most food collected in the 2018 FFF. With the generosity of our partners, we exceeded our **goal of 175,000 pounds** - ultimately collecting **253,450 pounds of food for people in need!** Together, the government collected a total of 8,389,516 pounds. A special thanks to the Office of Research and Development for leading EPA's participation in the FFF. Lookout for the start of the 2019 FFF this summer.

ELMS Update

REMINDER: OCI to host first open house

All are welcome to OCI's first open house on Monday, February 25 from 11 a.m. - 2 p.m.!

Key Dates	Video Spotlig
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Click on each event below to get more details.

EPA announces comprehensive nation

EPA Acting Administrator Andrew Wheeler announced the new National Polyfluoroalkyl Substances (PFAS) Action Plan. The plan includes short-term solutions for addressing these chemicals in drinking water. The plan will help provide the tools and technologies states need to provide clean and safe drinking water.



(Total time: 24:02)

Click on the "Add to Calendar" button to add an event to your Outlook calendar.

If you see a log-in screen, please click on your EPA email, or if prompted, enter your email and network password.

This week:

Feb. 19: [EndNote Basics webinar](#) [ADD TO CALENDAR](#)

Feb. 22: [New date for the CFC Campaign end](#) [ADD TO CALENDAR](#)

Coming soon:

Feb. 25: [Office of Continuous Improvement Open House](#) [ADD TO CALENDAR](#)

Feb. 26: [African American History Month Celebration](#) [ADD TO CALENDAR](#)

Feb. 27: [Martin Luther King Day Jr. Celebration](#) [ADD TO CALENDAR](#)

March 6: [Deaf Culture Seminar](#) [ADD TO CALENDAR](#)

March 7: [Deadline to Submit Placement Descriptions for 2019 AAAS and ASPPH Fellowships](#) [ADD TO CALENDAR](#)

Health & Wellness

Lead an anti-inflammatory lifestyle



Inflammation is your immune system's response to fight off harmful stimuli, but if the inflammatory response persists for an extended period, the symptoms can become chronic and harm the body. Chronic inflammatory diseases include stroke, heart disease, cancer, and diabetes, and - according to the article "Chronic Inflammation" on the [National Center for Biotechnology Information website](#) - are responsible for the deaths of three out of five people worldwide. While more research is needed to fully understand the relationship between inflammation and chronic conditions, the following habits can reduce your risk for chronic inflammation while also benefitting your overall wellbeing:

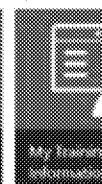
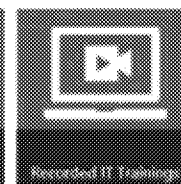
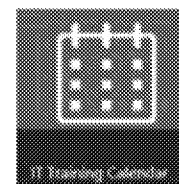
- Avoid processed foods and eat a healthy diet that includes fruits, vegetables, whole grains, and healthy fats (e.g., olive oil and fatty fish).
- Do not smoke.
- Maintain a healthy weight.
- Get regular exercise.
- Manage stress.

For more information, visit the [Anti-Inflammatory Lifestyle page](#) on the EPA intranet.

We would love to hear our feedback about this newsletter. Please contact us at internalcomms@epa.gov | <http://intranet.epa.gov/internalcomms>. Looking for previous editions of the newsletter? Go to the [Newsletter Archive](#).

IT Corner

EPA IT Training Program



Are you wondering where to find IT-related training? The EPA IT Training Program is here to help. Pre-recorded webinars are available, and there's also a calendar feature so you can register for training that fit your schedule.

Don't see the right class for you? No problem, just fill out the [Request Form](#) to request instructor-led IT training. This type of training is at no cost for EPA employees and is scheduled based on availability.

Possible training topics include:

- Adobe Connect
- Excel
- Mobile Devices
- Office 2016
- OneNote

If you have any questions, please contact the IT Training Program at EPA_IT_Training_Program@epa.gov.

NOTE: For all technical issues, headquarters staff will be able to assist you through the Enterprise IT Service Desk (EISD) at EISD@epa.gov (option 3). Regional offices should contact their local IT support.

